

**Old Growth/Biodiversity Stewardship  
Public Advisory Team  
2 November 2001 (initial meeting)  
Meeting Notes/Overview**

What's the process?

The Old Growth & Biodiversity Stewardship Public Advisory Team (OG/BS PAT) is a group of representatives from organizations that have expressed a strong interest in the OG/BS process. They will provide a set of recommendations on the OG/BS process criteria and guidelines, preferably within a four-month time period beginning in November of 2001. They will also need to review and consider input from other outside interests, including general comments from the public.

\*\*The PAT is free to provide input on other portions of the OG/BS process as well.

After the Public Advisory Team reviews the criteria and guidelines and makes recommendations, the Statewide Council—consisting of MDNR division/bureau chiefs and directors—will make the final recommendations on criteria and guideline content. The PAT's job does not end there, because the Statewide Council or others may ask the team for further explanations or clarifications.

Public Advisory Team decisions:

Aside from two representatives that could not attend the initial meeting, no other organizations will be invited to become a part of the PAT. The team will, however, make time available to others who wish to address them at each subsequent meeting.

Maureen McDonough, MSU Forestry, and Georgia Peterson, MSU Extension, will continue to serve as facilitators of PAT meetings.

All input received from the public via the designated e-mail account ([OGBS@dnr.state.mi.us](mailto:OGBS@dnr.state.mi.us)) or through the postal system will be compiled by the DNR and shared with members of the team.

Other points:

Allowing for disturbance, and how to “manage” it, is a crucial aspect of what old growth and biodiversity means.

It must be clear that criteria and guidelines focus on the inherent capability of the land itself. We cannot take the “zoo mentality” and have a little of *everything*.

The OG/BS should emphasize restoration *and* maintenance.

The DNR needs to develop a mechanism for informing staff of PAT activities and progress.